THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) No information in regard to alleged harassment of innocent people of North Cachar Hill District is available.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Border dispute between NE States

3437. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of the initiatives taken by Government to solve the border dispute problems among Assam-Nagaland and Assam-Meghalaya States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): The Government of India had convened a tripartite meeting on 16.7.1998 to resolve the boundary dispute between the States of Assam and Nagaland. The view taken in that meeting was that a Boundary Dispute Commission, whose recommendations would be final and binding, be appointed. However, this was not acceptable to the State Governments concerned.

As regards the boundary dispute between Assam and Meghalaya, the Government of India had decided to convene a tripartite meeting in March, 2000 with the officials of the State Governments of Assam and Meghalaya. However, the Government of Assam informed that there was no major boundary dispute between Assam and Meghalaya and that the problems arising here and there could be sorted out through mutual discussions between the two States at official or political level. The Government of Assam, therefore, requested the Government of India to cancel the proposed meeting.

Deterioration of internal security

3438. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether internal security of the country has been deteriorating of late;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete measures taken to ensure that internal security, violence and anarchy are tackled efficiently and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The overall internal security situation in the country largely remained under control. However, the militant and secessionist activities in Jammu & Kashmir, the militancy in some North-Eastern States, Left extremist violence in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa continue to remains areas of concern. Government in consultation with all concerned has been evolving appropriate strategies to handle sensitive issues pertaining to internal security in a multi-dimensional manner, which include strengthening of the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by proactive action against them in the hinterland, greater functional integration of anti-militancy efforts, gearing up of intelligence machinery, galvanising development programmes and deepening of the democratic process etc. The Central Government has also been regularly sensitising all State Governments and concerned agencies regarding the activities of extremists. Intelligence is shared on continuous basis and support is provided by way of financial assistance for modernisation of State Police Forces and deployment of Central Para Military Forces. There is constant interaction between the Centre and concerned State Governments where the internal security situation is reviewed and various aspects of assistance from the Central Government are discussed. Special Schemes for reimbursement/ grant of the security related expenditure incurred by the extremist affected States is also being implemented by the Central Government.

Cancellation of train/bus services to Pak

3439. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 6th March, 2000, captioned "cancel train/bus service with Pak";

(b) whether a political party has demanded immediate cancellation of bus and train services between India and Pakistan; if so, its name;

(c) whether Government have any information that they were being used by ISI to push terrorist, fake currency and arms and ammunition into the country; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking on this count?